

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

October 8, 2013
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman
Mr. John C. Austin, President
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President
Mr. Daniel Varner, Secretary
Dr. Richard Zeile, Treasurer
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, NASBE Delegate
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus
Mrs. Eileen Weiser
Mr. Craig Ruff, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan welcomed students from Spring Arbor University's Foundations in Education class who were in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Flanagan said today is the first day of Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) testing. He said approximately 800,000 students will participate in testing involving various grades and subjects.

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Mrs. Straus who will be inducted as a member of the Heritage Hall of Fame on November 12. He said the award recognizes exceptional leaders from various ethnic backgrounds who have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life, who have demonstrated their commitment to multiculturalism, and who have generously supported ethnic and cultural traditions.

Mr. Flanagan thanked Eileen Weiser and the Michigan Department of Education team for providing outstanding testimony during the Senate Common Core hearing.

Mr. Flanagan said Mark Julien, a high school teacher from Utica Community Schools in Sterling Heights, received the Milken Educator Award – a \$25,000 cash award. Mr. Flanagan shared a video of Dr. Zeile speaking during the surprise announcement at Henry Ford II High School on October 1.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:41 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON PERSONAL CURRICULUM

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Melissa Helberg, Graduate Research Associate, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan; presented the Personal Curriculum Study and Report.

Mr. Flanagan said staff will review a report regarding the implementation of the Personal Curriculum among schools around the state. He said the report addresses possible next steps to promote Personal Curriculum implementation in Michigan.

Dr. Keesler said the Personal Curriculum is a process to modify specific credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. She said it is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements and students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included professional development opportunities to close gaps in understanding, standardizing forms, the kindergarten through eighth grade pipeline, opportunities to engage parents, streamlining the process, resources available, school and community centered solutions, increasing the understanding of available options, identification of need for which tool is intended to serve, additional leverage for parents, and the analysis of data including groups represented and dropouts.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON PRIORITY SCHOOLS

Dr. Joseph Martineau, Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services; Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; presented on Priority Schools.

Mr. Flanagan said in response to a request from the State Board of Education, Department staff have identified key assessment and demographic data as well as infrastructure information about Michigan's Priority Schools. He said the presentation will review issues that schools face and must overcome in order to improve student achievement.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Following the presentation, two booklets were distributed, *Priority Schools: Reading for Excellence*; and *Data Conversations – Using Data to Inform Rapid Transformation and District School Improvement through Data Dialogues*.

Board member discussion included acknowledgement of Reward Schools, supports for Priority Schools, data over the course of three years, achievement criteria, test scores, staff turnover, supports for families via full day full service schools, schools leaving Priority School status, and graduation rates.

IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING POLICY BACKGROUND ON SCHOOL FINANCE ISSUES

Mr. John Austin, President, State Board of Education; and Ms. Meg Jalilevand, Graduate Researcher, Education Policy Center, Michigan State University; presented Policy Background on School Finance Issues.

Mr. Austin and Ms. Jalilevand, reviewed the *Michigan Education Organization and Finance Research Brief* written by Ms. Jalilevand. Mr. Austin said one of the Board's priorities is developing a vision and comprehensive plan for redesigning Michigan school organization and

finance. He said Casandra Ulbrich, Eileen Weiser and he have been participating in a bipartisan school funding workgroup with Chairman Bill Rogers and other members of the House Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and Education. Mr. Austin said it has been twenty years since Proposal A – a constitutional amendment on school finance. He said the brief, the first in a series, summarizes the major issues related to financing K-12 schools in the State of Michigan.

Ms. Jalilevand reviewed the headlines of the report.

Mr. Ruff cited per pupil funding amounts, and said in some deficit districts that have large per pupil funding allowances, management is an issue. Mr. Austin said there are combinations of factors influencing the finances of many districts that have significantly diminished financial resources.

Mrs. Weiser said the Board is deeply involved in raising student achievement, and the money going out is not reflecting student achievement. She said the brief does not represent her views.

Dr. Zeile said the summary of points is helpful. He said in changing times the traditional model is unable to change, and there are deep implications. He said he takes exception to the comment that charter schools are without quality controls, and he believes the converse is true. He said facts and implications need to be digested further.

Dr. Ulbrich said it is necessary to have a base understanding that is agreed upon, and then discuss how to proceed.

Mrs. Straus said the goal is quality education for every child and resources are needed to get there. She said she appreciates the report.

Mr. Varner said he is thankful that the process has begun, and the effort is good but not perfect. He said the paper should be reviewed without attempting to add solutions at this time.

Mr. Austin said further discussion will include gathering of facts and implications to determine what we need to do as a state to organize and finance education and get the desired outcomes.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 12:48 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Mr. Ruff left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Ms. Patricia Paxton, Lake Orion, Michigan. Ms. Paxton, representing the Network of Michigan Educators, shared verbal comments and written information on classroom success stories.
2. Mr. John Lauve, Holly, Michigan. Mr. Lauve shared verbal comments regarding an educational book, *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way* by Amanda Ripley; and the Constitutional duty of general supervision.
3. Mr. Jeff Phillips, Caro, Michigan. Mr. Phillips, Board of Education Trustee, Kingston Community Schools, shared verbal comments on local flexibility of educational programs.

XII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:55 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

XIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR SECTION 99H: COMPETITIVE FIRST ROBOTICS GRANTS

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive First Robotics Grants.

Mr. Flanagan said staff is proposing additional criteria for the grant program.

Ms. Forward said the addition is "Applicants are willing to offer elective high school credit for students who have successfully logged 60 hours, provided their team attends a minimum of 2 district competitions."

Dr. Ulbrich asked if there are unintended consequences. Ms. Forward said there are no consequences that are not insurmountable.

Dr. Ulbrich said "willing to" is ambiguous, and the wording should be strengthened.

Mrs. Weiser said wording should be added to clarify the scope.

Ms. Fecteau said she is concerned about competency based credit. Ms. Forward said determining criteria for competency based credit is a local decision.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

XV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- E. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 10, 2013

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 10, 2013.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

At the request of Mr. Flanagan, Deputy Superintendents introduced the following new employees: James Green, Systems, Psychometrics and Measurement Research; Daniel Leeds and Shannon Stackhouse-Flores, Evaluation, Strategic Research and Accountability; and Connie Jones, Child and Adult Care Food Program.

XVII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin thanked Mrs. Weiser for her Senate testimony on the Common Core State Standards. He said he appreciates the work done by Mr. Flanagan and the Department to provide factual information regarding the Common Core. He said House Concurrent Resolution 11 was clear, and it respected the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education to set standards and the assessment regime. He said the Board will continue to set standards thoughtfully with full public discussion and Legislative engagement.

Mr. Austin said the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness recommendations regarding educator evaluation need to be enacted through legislation with resources dedicated to implement them.

Mr. Austin said the school finance issue statement will be fine-tuned. He said he welcomes additional feedback for further discussion.

Mr. Austin congratulated Mrs. Straus on her upcoming induction into the Heritage Hall of Fame.

XVIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

F. Human Resources Report

Grants

G. Report on Grant Awards

1. 2013-2014 Early Childhood Block Grant - Initial (1)
2. 2013-2014 Early Childhood Block Grant - Initial (2)
3. 2013-2014 Evaluation for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program - Initial
4. 2013-2014 Mandated Activities Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004), Part C - Continuation
5. 2013-2014 Statewide Collaboration for Technical Assistance Grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program - Continuation
6. 2013-2014 Training and Technical Assistance for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant - Initial
7. 2010-2011 ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant - Amendment
8. 2011-2012 ARRA Title I School Improvement Grant - Amendment
9. 2012-2013 Section 22.i Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grants, Category 3 - Amendment
10. 2012-2013 Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant, Category Five - Initial
11. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs - Initial
12. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A Schoolwide Planning Grant - Amendment
13. 2013-2014 Title I, Part C Regular Migrant Program Allocations - Initial
14. 2013-2014 Title I, Part D, Subpart 1, Neglected and Delinquent Program for State Agencies - Initial
15. 2013-2014 Title II, Part A - Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting - Initial
16. 2013-2014 IDEA, Part B Mandated Activities Projects - Initial
17. 2013-2014 State Personnel Development Grant Under the IDEA - Initial
18. 2013-2014 Application for School Bus Driver Safety Education Program - Initial
19. 2013-2014 Application for School Bus Inspection Program - Initial
20. 2013-2014 Cooperative Education Grant - Initial

Mr. Flanagan said schools in financial emergency have the option of a consent agreement under the new law. He said the addition of an educational plan included in a consent agreement sends the message that academics need to be in order for the prevention of a downward spiral. He said Department staff have provided leadership in developing the plan.

Mr. Flanagan said over the past month he has presented a quarterly report on deficit districts to the Legislature, spoke at the Fiscal Forethought Conference attended by Michelle Fecteau and Kathleen Straus, visited several schools including the Avondale partnership with Oakland University benefitting student achievement and teacher preparation, spoke at the Upper Great Lakes Talent Summit via Skype, hosted a meeting for new superintendents, attended the Michigan Virtual Teacher of the Year reception, spoke at the School Justice Summit, and attended a University Presidents meeting.

XIX. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year. He shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting his activities over the past month serving as Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Abud invited the Board to attend GPNspire on November 15. He said it is a showcase of inspiring talks by K-12 students.

XX. APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 CAMP TUHSMEHETA (CAMP T) SPENDING PLAN

Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services; and Ms. Jane Schultz, Director, Financial Management, presented the Camp Tuhsmeheeta Spending Plan for approval.

Mr. Flanagan said at the August 27, 2013, Michigan School for the Blind Trust Fund Committee meeting, members reviewed the fiscal year 2013-2014 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta. He said the spending plan is being submitted to the full Board for approval.

Ms. Wolenberg said Ms. Fecteau and Mrs. Straus are members of the Board's Michigan School for the Trust Fund Committee and they attended the August 27 meeting.

Ms. Schultz reviewed the spending plan that the committee approved on August 27.

Ms. Fecteau said that Camp Tuhsmeheeta has good facilities and is very affordable. She said more people should consider using the camp which is open to outside groups.

Mrs. Straus said Camp Tuhsmeheeta has benefitted from many improvements over the past years, and she suggested that Board members visit the camp.

Dr. Ulbrich asked that future spending plans show a two-year comparison.

Mrs. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the FY 2013-14 spending plan for Camp Tuhsmeheeta, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 23, 2013.

Following discussion, the vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on the federal government shut down and the impact on funding for Michigan programs.

Mr. Ackley said the Common Core State Standards remains a topic of discussion in the Legislature. He said the Michigan Council for Educator Evaluation recommendations have been the topic of testimony in the Legislature, but legislation has not been introduced.

Dr. Ulbrich, Chair of the Board's Legislative Committee, said a news release was issued on October 1, 2013, regarding the Legislature continuing funding for the Common Core State Standards.

Dr. Ulbrich said the Board's Legislative Committee is presenting a statement in support of House Bill 4490. She said the bill was introduced by Representative Thomas Stallworth, III, to address suspension and expulsion in public schools. Dr. Ulbrich read the State Board of Education Statement on House Bill 4490.

Dr. Zeile said an issue that has not been given enough attention is the school's ongoing responsibility for services to students who have been suspended or expelled from school.

Dr. Ulbrich said current law states that it is up to an individual or parent to find a suitable educational experience.

Mr. Austin said the Board and Department have had a long-standing interest in alternatives to suspension and expulsion, as evidenced by the Board's Resolution to Address School Discipline Issues Impacting Student Outcomes that was adopted on June 12, 2012.

Ms. Fecteau said this is a complex issue balancing safety and student needs, and she needs more time to think about it.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Statement in Support of House Bill 4490.

Mrs. Straus said the Michigan Department of Education has received a grant from NASBE to decrease out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and law enforcement referrals. She said the next meeting of the School Discipline Task Force is October 15 and Michelle Fecteau, Richard Zeile, and she will attend.

Mr. Varner said data should be collected to ensure that students are not suspended or expelled in disproportionate numbers, and that better outcomes do occur.

Mr. Austin said educators need additional training in restorative justice models. He said Representative Stallworth is looking for doable steps.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner,
Weiser, Zeile
Abstain: Fecteau**

The motion carried.

The State Board of Education Statement on House Bill 4490 is attached as Exhibit A.

XXII. CONSENT AGENDA

- J. Approval of Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants

Dr. Ulbrich moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- J. approve the criteria for the Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 23, 2013.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said she attended the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) summit sponsored by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials on September 30 through October 3 in Washington, DC. She said there is much work to do, and she will be bringing some of the people she met to Grand Rapids.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny said the State Board of Education approved the Statement on Tuition Equality at its April 9, 2013 meeting. She said Wayne State University and the University of Michigan have similar tuition policies.

Mrs. Weiser said Dr. Zeile and she will be attending the National Summit on Education Reform in Boston, Massachusetts on October 17 and 18.

Dr. Zeile said he attended a regional symposium regarding issues, practices and policies related to the Next Generation Science Standards on September 20 in Pittsburgh. He said he talked to people about age appropriateness of standards, and he is reading the framework for K-12 science education.

XXIV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich and Mr. Varner with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, November 19, 2013 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, December 17, 2013 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, January 14, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- D. Tuesday, February 11, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at www.michigan.gov/sbe.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Varner
Secretary

State Board of Education Statement on House Bill 4490

The State Board of Education welcomes the intent of HB4490. This proposed legislation thoughtfully defines procedures public school officials should follow when authorizing the expulsion or suspension of a student. We urge the Legislature to support its passage or that of a similar bill to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate student suspensions and expulsions.

The SBE has long been concerned about excessive use of suspensions and expulsions in Michigan's public schools. In 2012, the SBE recommended the following resolution calling on schools to adopt discipline policies without mandates for suspensions or expulsions for most behavior issues: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Final_Resolution_School_Discipline_Issues_Impacting_Student_Outcomes_389055_7.pdf

Michigan has received one of three new state grants from the National Association of State Boards of Education to curb the use of out-of-school punishments in an attempt to improve student success. Activities will include developing a State Board Model Policy on Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions in Schools, revising the existing State Board Model Code of Student Conduct and developing an online resource to further implementation of the State Board Model Policy on Alternatives to Suspensions and Expulsions in Schools. Given the Board's and Department's commitment to alternative forms of discipline, we strongly support this legislative initiative.

Approved October 8, 2013